



Bird Census at Benicia, California

Benicia, Solano County, California. Observers travelling together by automobile with frequent stops to canvass the marsh, waterfront and live-oak hill area along the highway between Benicia and Cordelia (these two towns being fourteen miles apart). Benicia waterfront 30%, marsh 20%, open fields 10%, hills 40%. December 28, 1947, 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Foggy in morning, clear in afternoon; cold west wind 8-12 m.p.h.; temperature, 38°-46° F. Total hours, 19 (9 by senior observer, 5 each by juniors; 17 on foot, 2 by car); total miles, 50 (30 by car, 20 on foot).

Western Grebe, 3	Killdeer, 30	Water Pipit
Great Blue Heron, 1	Black-bellied Plover, 60	(American), 20
Common Egret	Wilson Snipe, 1	Cedar Waxwing, 32
(American), 12	Red-backed Sandpiper, 42	Loggerhead Shrike
Snowy Egret	Western Gull, 58	(California), 27
(Brewster's), 5	California Gull, 8	Audubon Warbler, 55
Black-crowned	Ring-billed Gull, 2	English Sparrow, 140
Night Heron, 12	Bonaparte Gull, 90	Western Meadowlark, 275
Snow Goose	Band-tailed Pigeon, 2	Red-winged Blackbird, 8
(Lesser), about 250	Barn Owl, 1	Brewer Blackbird,
Pintail, 20	Red-shafted Flicker, 16	about 2700
Green-winged Teal, 1	Downy Woodpecker	House Finch, 230
Shoveller, 160	(Willow), 1	American Goldfinch
Canvas-back Duck,	California Jay, 13	(Willow), 49
about 750	Plain Titmouse, 6	Arkansas Goldfinch
Lesser Scaup Duck, 30	Bush-tit, 50	(Green-backed), 8
Ruddy Duck, 32	Long-billed Marsh	Brown Towhee, 1
Red-tailed Hawk, 10	Wren (Suisun), 2	Savannah Sparrow, 40
Marsh Hawk, 4	Robin (Western),	Junco, 70
Sparrow Hawk, 19	about 1200	White-crowned Sparrow
Virginia Rail, 1	Hermit Thrush, 8	(Nuttall), 130
American Coot,	Ruby-crowned	Golden-crowned
about 800	Kinglet, 35	Sparrow, 115
		Song Sparrow, 10

53 species, about 7,645 individuals.

Many hunters in this area during the second portion of the dual open

season caused waterfowl to be wary on the date of census. Most of the waterfowl observed were at too great a distance to identify and these are not included in the census.

—Marjorie M., Donald E., and

December 28, 1947

Emerson A. Stoner,

Benicia, California.

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February Field Trip

The 22nd trip of the Association to Burlingame was held on Sunday the fifteenth. Twenty-three members and guests took advantage of the good weather and enjoyed the birding from the bay to the foothills. Starting from Easton Drive on El Camino Real in Burlingame, after a preliminary look at the birds on the bay, the party was directed by the leader, Mr. Arthur H. Myer, up to the Skyline Boulevard. After lunch the party went to San Andreas Lake where we saw the birds on the San Francisco Game Refuge of the Water Department.

Species noted only on the bay shore at Burlingame:

Common Egret	Black-bellied Plover	Western Sandpiper
Lesser Scaup Duck	Long-billed Curlew	Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Duck	Willet	Belted Kingfisher
Killdeer	Dowitcher	Black Phoebe
		House Finch

Species noted from Burlingame to San Andreas Lake:

Western Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Robin
Eared Grebe	Mew Gull (Short-billed)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pied-billed Grebe	Anna Hummingbird	Hutton Vireo
Double-crested	Red-shafted Flicker	Audubon Warbler
Cormorant	Western Flycatcher	Townsend Warbler
Great Blue Heron	California Jay	Western Meadowlark
Black-crowned	Plain Titmouse	English Sparrow
Night Heron	Chestnut-backed	Purple Finch
Mallard	Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Canvas-back Duck	Bush-tit	Spotted Towhee
Turkey Vulture	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Brown Towhee
Red-tailed Hawk	Wren-tit	Fox Sparrow
Sparrow Hawk	Bewick Wren	Oregon Junco
California Quail	Hermit Thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
American Coot	Varied Thrush	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Glaucous-winged Gull		Song Sparrow
A total of 57 species.		—Kenneth Schulz, <i>Historian.</i>

A Tomales Bay Incident

On December 27 Mr. Warren Flock and the writer were driving north along Tomales Bay, with frequent stops to observe the numerous water birds. A very large flock near Hog Island indicated the presence of a swarm of small fish. As we watched, the birds approached closer and closer, and were seen to be mostly Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and various gulls. Presently a flock of White Pelicans came over from Pelican Point. Their method of catching fish was in striking contrast to that of the Brown Pelicans, and showed a remarkable degree of cooperation. A row of the birds would fly in toward the shore, striking the water with their wings and feet, thus driving the fish into shallow water where they were caught by the birds while sitting on the water. This performance was repeated several times while we watched spellbound from very close range. — A. Laurence Curl.

Observations

Edited by MRS. JUNE W. KELLY

5 Mt. Bluebirds, 12 White-throated Swifts, December 25, Mt. Diablo; 1 Horned Owl, January 3, Wild Cat Canyon; 1 Road Runner, January 3, near San Leandro Reservoir, A. Laurence Curl.

White-throated Sparrow, December 18 and 20, 11000 Broadway Terrace, Oakland; 3 Red-throated Loons, December 27, Tiburon; Red-breasted Sapsucker, December 26, 11000 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, Mrs. Vee Curtis.

Least Sandpipers, apparently picking insects off grass; January 8, 1948, Berkeley Aquatic Park, Herman V. Lefler.

March Meeting

The 366th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on March 11, 1948. Meet at 8:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library at Larkin and McAllister Streets. Mr. Brighton C. Cain will be the speaker of the evening. His topic will be "Birding is Fun."

March Field Trip

The March Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the fourteenth to Tilden Regional Park. Mr. Jean M. F. Du-bois will lead the trip. San Francisco members take the 8:17 a.m. "F" train at the Key System Terminal and ask for a transfer at the gate. Get off at University and Shattuck Avenues and take the No. 67 bus. East Bay members also take the same bus. Get off at Summit Reservoir. Bring lunch and binoculars. Visitors are welcome to our field trips.

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NOTE: A vote will be taken at the March meeting to determine whether or not the Audubon Association of the Pacific is to become a branch of the National Audubon Society. All members are urged to be present to cast their votes.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

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Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 8:00 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco

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Student memberships, \$1.50 per year

Life memberships, \$50.00

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